

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 /023 W

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P 271639Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6495

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 9078

FOR DIRECTOR FBO FROM AMBASSADOR KUBISCH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, ASEC, AFSP

SUBJECT: PERIMETER FENCE FOR AMERICAN EMBASSY ATHENS

1. NOW THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED THE REMAINDER OF THE FENCING MATERIAL, WE ARE PROCEEDING TO BRING THIS PROJECT TO A RAPID CONCLUSION. WE HAVE COMPLETED ERECTION OF THE FENCE ON THE VASILISSIS SOFIAS SIDE AND THE DORILEOU STREET SIDE; WE HAVE BEGUN ERECTION ALONG SPARTIATON STREET. THOSE THREE SIDES WILL BE ERECTED AT THE ORIGINALLY PLANNED HEIGHT OF NINE FEET ABOVE THE CONCRETE BASE, AS FORESEEN BY THE ARCHITECT.

2. IN MY OPINION, THE MOST CRITICAL REMAINING SIDE, FROM THE POLITICAL AND ESTHETIC POINTS OF VIEW, IS THE LACHITOS STREET SIDE WHICH INCORPORATES THE DIPLOMATIC ENTRANCE TO THE CHANCERY. TAKING THESE CONSIDERATIONS INTO ACCOUNT, AND HAVING HAD FOR SOME MONTHS THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE THE FENCE AT ITS FULL HEIGHT ALONG SOFIAS AVENUE (IT IS HIGHER, IN MY OPINION, THAN IT NEEDS TO BE, GIVEN THE 3-4 FEET OF ADDITIONAL HEIGHT DUE TO GROUND ELEVATION AND THE CONCRETE BASE), I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WE CAN BEST SATISFY ALL RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS BY A SLIGHT MODIFICATION OF THE FENCE HEIGHT ALONG THIS CRITICAL (LACHITOS) SIDE. THEREFORE, UNLESS WE ARE INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE NEXT WEEK, WE PLAN TO ERECT THE FENCE ON THE LACHITOS SIDE IN PROGRESSIVELY

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GRADUATED SECTIONS, MORE HARMONIOUS AND ESTHETICALLY

APPEALING, AT HEIGHTS OF FROM SEVEN FEET NINE INCHES (7'9") UP TO NINE FEET (9') ABOVE THE CONCRETE BASE; THE GATES WILL REMAIN AT THEIR ORIGINALLY-PLANNED HEIGHT OF NINE FEET. BEARING IN MIND THAT THE LAND ON THAT SIDE RISES FROM THE SIDEWALK AND THAT THE CONCRETE BASE ALSO RISES AN ADDITIONAL DISTANCE ABOVE THE GROUND, THE MINIMUM HEIGHT OF THE FENCE ABOVE SIDEWALK LEVEL AT ANY POINT WILL BE NINE FEET NINE INCHES (9'9"), WHICH SHOULD CONSTITUTE AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLY DAMAGING THE APPEARANCE OF THE DIPLOMATIC-ENTRANCE SIDE. RSO CONCURS.

3. WE HAVE ESTIMATED THE COST OF THE MODIFICATION AT APPROXIMATELY \$3,750 AND WILL ABSORB IT WITHIN CURRENTLY-AUTHORIZED FUNDING LEVELS.
KUBISCH

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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